and rehabilitation of Beggars, Public Awareness Campaigns to make people desist from giving alms have been part of perspective plans to end begging menace.

Social security programmes

2204. SHRI BHAGAT SINGH KOSHYARI: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is committed to the upliftment of weaker sections of the society and ensuring social security of elderly and disabled persons; and

(b) if so, the details of the programmes implemented for the purpose in Uttar Pradesh and achievements made therein?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRI D. NAPOLEON): (a) The Government implements several schemes for social security for the weaker sections including elderly and disabled. The Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment has many schemes such as Integrated Programme for Older Persons for running Old Age Homes, Day Care Centres and Mobile Medicare Units, Assistance to Disabled Persons for purchase/fitting of Aid's/Appliances (ADIP) and provides grant in aid for rehabilitation/ empowerment of persons with disabilities through projects such as Special Schools for Mentally Retarded/Hearing Impaired/Visually Handicapped, Vocational Training Centres etc. under Deendayal Disabled Rehabilitation Scheme.

The Ministry of Rural Development also administers the National Social Assistance Programme (NSAP) which was launched from 1995-96 as a Centrally Sponsored Scheme. Later on, NSAP was transferred to the State Plan *w.e.f.* 2002-03 and funds are provided as Additional Central Assistance (ACA) to the States. At present NSAP comprises of following schemes:—

(i) Indira Gandhi National Old Age Pension Scheme (IGNOAPS)

(ii) National Family Benefit Scheme (NFBS)

(iii) Annapurna Scheme

(iv) Indira Gandhi National Widow Pension Scheme (IGNWPS)

(v) Indira Gandhi National Disability Pension Scheme (IGNDPS)

(b) Information is being collected and will be placed on the Table of the House.

Recognition as SC

2205. SHRIMATI BRINDA KARAT: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government had received representation from Namasudra community for recognition as Scheduled Caste;

(b) if so, the details of the same and the action taken on it; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRI D. NAPOLEON): (a) to (c) Proposals to include Namasudra community in the list of Scheduled Castes were received from State Government of Uttarakhand and Chhattisgarh.

The proposal of Government of Uttarakhand was processed in accordance with the approved modalities. On the basis of comments of the Registrar General of India, the State Government was requested to provide requisite ethnographic information, which has not been received.

The proposal of Government of Chhattisgarh to include Namasudra Community in the list of Scheduled Castes was returned to them for clarification of certain inconsistencies found in the proposal.

Grants for Orissa

2206. SHRI RAMA CHANDRA KHUNTIA: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state the total grants released by Government in Special Central Assistance (SCA) scheme in the country and in Orissa for the year 2008-09 and the per cent of utilization, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRI D. NAPOLEON): The State-wise details of Special Central Assistance funds released to States/UTs including Orissa during 2008-09 are as under:—

(Rs. in lakhs)

Sl.No.	States/UTs	Released
1	2	3
1.	Andhra Pradesh	5167.85
2.	Assam	1089.04
3.	Bihar	4009.15
4.	Chhattisgarh	547.21
5.	Gujarat	959.52
6.	Haryana	1213.48
7.	Himachal Pradesh	517.08
8.	Jammu and Kashmir	230.48
9.	Jharkhand	574.94
10.	Karnataka	3605.30